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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/954,712 | 09/18/2001 | Tomio Suzuki | 791_161 | 7619 |
| 25191 7590 10/21/2003 | | | | |
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| SYRACUSE, NY 13261-7068 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| ULLAH, AKM E | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 2874 | | | | |

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/954,712

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI, TOMIO

Examiner

Akm Enayet Ullah

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-21 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Detailed Action

Applicant cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Status of the Application

Claims 1 - 21 are pending in this application.

Claims 14-21 are allowed over the prior art as of record.

Prior Art or Co-Pending Application

If applicant is aware of any prior art or any other co- pending application not already of record, he/she is reminded of his/her duty under 37 CFR 1.56 to disclose the same.

Drawings

This application has been filed on September 18, 2001 with informal drawings, which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Figures 12 and 16 needs to label as a "Prior Art".

Claimed Foreign Priority- Papers Filed

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Basavanhally et al. (USPNO. 2002/0197947) in view of Sherman et al (USPNO. 6470123).

Basavanhally et al disclose a fiber array coupler has two plates, each having teardrop-shape apertures. The plates have a 180-degree in plane rotation relative to one another. In one configuration, the relatively larger sections of the teardrop shape of paired apertures align, i.e., are concentric, to define a maximum size opening that is suitable for receiving bare optical fiber, i.e., fiber stripped of any jacketing, etc. In another configuration, which is obtained by moving at least one of the plates, the relatively smaller sections of the teardrop shape of paired apertures align to define a minimum size opening that is suitable for immobilizing the bare optical fiber. For details see figure 1 and the summary of the invention of the reference.

Sherman et al disclose a high density optical fiber array assembly where the use of epoxy or other material suitable material into the housing chamber through the open fit housing material mentioned in column 3 and housing can be made of stainless steel or other suitable material mentioned in column in column 4.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the teaching of Sherman et al in Basavanhally et al reference since both references are directed to a common use in the same environment, there is an implied suggestion for applying the teachings of one to the other. That is, the skilled worker who is presumed to have knowledge of the prior art, with these two references (Basavanhally et al in view of Sherman et al) before him, would immediately recognize the desirability of employing the different materials teachings taught by Sherman et al to the array device, as claimed. .

Objection To Claims, Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Cited Prior Art

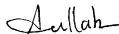
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Trezza et al (US 2003/0002807) and Uno et al (USPNO. 6,240,235) are also cited to show a typical prior art of forming guide light assembly and fixing an optical, which is made of glass respectively.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akm Enayet Ullah whose telephone number is 703-308-4885. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.- Wed. 5.30-4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on 703-3084819. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7721 for regular communications and 703-308-7721 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



Akm Enayet Ullah
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2874

AUllah
October 15, 2003